report, certain financial irregularities have been pointed out. ICHR has communciated its para-wise replies in this regard to Director General of Audit.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has asked ICHR to pursue the matter with audit and take appropriate action, where necessary.

Literacy target

619. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO, which was initially optimistic about India's claims of total literacy by decade-end, has now started expressing reservations;

(b) if so, whether a recent report of the UN body says universal elementary education may elude the country even around 2015, five years after Government's deadline;

(c) if so, what were the main reasons put forward by them; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to see that India achieves literacy target by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) UNESCO has brought out a EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2002 in which India has been shown at serious risk of missing the EFA goals of Universal Primary Education and Total Literacy by 2015. The conclusions drawn in this Report are based on data available to UNESCO on the parameters of net enrolment ratio in primary schools, gender parity as per gross enrolment ratio in primary schools and the percentage of audlt literacy. The data used by UNESCO for these parameters were either outdated or not available to UNESCO as far as India is concerned. Further, initiatives taken in the recent years like launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and restructuring of literacy programme have not been taken into account for arriving at the conclusions.

(d) The initiatives of the Government for achieving the literacy target include:—

(1) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to achieve universalization of elementary education. The objectives of SSA are :

— All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003

— All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007

— All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010

— Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life

— Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010

— Universal retention by 2010

(2) The literacy schemes of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) have been restructured to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence in the implementation of the Literacy Campaigns and expansion in the scope of the Continuting Education programme.

— NLM aims to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.

Contribution of NRIs for higher education to Central Government fund

†620. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked those non-resident Indians, who have made contribution to the concerned institutions for higher education, to pay money only in 'Central Government fund';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.